



U.S. Department of Justice

Ronald C. Machen Jr.
*United States Attorney for the
District of Columbia*

*Judiciary Center
555 Fourth St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530*

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, June 20, 2011

For Information Contact:

Public Affairs

(202) 252-6933

http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc/Press_Releases/index.html

Three Men Associated with Benning Terrace Crew Sentenced for Obstruction of Justice, Related Charges - Interfered With Grand Jury Investigation -

WASHINGTON - Three associates of a violent criminal street gang were sentenced today for obstruction of justice and other crimes, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Jean-Robert Jean-Baptiste, Anthony Mundaray, and Ernest Davis, all of Washington, D.C., were convicted by a jury in April 2011 of obstruction of justice, conspiracy to obstruct justice, perjury, and subornation of perjury. According to the government's evidence, the men are associates of the Benning Terrace Crew, a gang that operates on Alabama Avenue SE, in an area of the District of Columbia that is also known as "Simple City."

They were sentenced by the Honorable Michael Ryan in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. Jean-Baptiste, 20, was sentenced to a 55-month prison term. Mundaray, 20, was sentenced to 36 months in prison. Davis, 19, was given a suspended sentence of three years in prison and must serve five years of supervised probation.

According to the government's evidence, on October 3, 2010, officers from the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) responded to a call for a man with a gun near Alabama Avenue SE and G Street SE. The caller provided a description that fit Jean-Baptiste. Officers noticed Jean-Baptiste in the 4700 block of Alabama Avenue SE, and he ran away when they tried to stop him. Jean-Baptiste ran into an apartment in the 600 block of 46th Street SE and shut the door, telling Davis's mother not to open it. Several people were in the residence and in Davis's bedroom when Jean-Baptiste burst through the door and ran through the apartment.

Officers found Jean-Baptiste sitting in Ernest Davis's bedroom, and found a 9-millimeter semi-automatic pistol with an extended magazine in a laundry basket in Davis's bedroom. Jean-Baptiste was arrested and held at the D.C. Jail, pending the outcome of the gun case.

Further investigation, including review of several months of recorded telephone calls made from the D.C. Jail, revealed that Jean-Baptiste, Mundaray, Davis, and several others, engaged in an elaborate campaign to undermine the grand jury investigation and cover up Jean-Baptiste's crimes. Over the next several months, Davis, at the urging of Jean-Baptiste, gave false testimony in the grand jury about his relationship with Jean-Baptiste and what he saw on October 3, 2010. Jean-Baptiste also encouraged, and later thanked profusely, a juvenile who falsely claimed that the gun was his. And finally, Mundaray assaulted a neighbor to keep the neighbor's mother from providing critical information to the police.

In announcing the sentences, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. thanked those who worked on the case for the MPD, including Detective Peter Shaw and Sixth District officers Christopher Clayton, John P. Crowley, Peter Reuter and Robert Underwood. He also thanked those who handled the case at the U.S. Attorney's Office, including Paralegals Daphne Nelson and Catherine Bouldin, Litigation Technology Specialist Joshua Ellen and student intern Laura Merkey. Finally, he praised the efforts of Assistant U.S. Attorneys Holly R. Shick and Kimberley Nielsen, who tried the case, as well as Jeffrey Pearlman, who assisted with the indictment.

11-252

###